

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method comprising:

raising a fly height of a ~~read/write head~~ transducer to a maximum setting at a radial position;

moving the ~~read/write head~~ transducer radially while substantially at the maximum fly height to a beginning position; and

lowering the ~~read/write head~~ transducer to a minimum fly height at the beginning position and executing a move cycle routine moving the ~~read/write head~~ transducer radially away from the beginning position while remaining substantially at the minimum fly height.

2. – 8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously presented) A data storage device comprising:

a transducer and a storage medium positionable along two dimensions with respect to each other in a data transfer relationship; and

a control element executing a move cycle routine by steps for associating a spatial separation between the transducer and the storage medium in relation to a direction of moving the transducer across the storage medium.

10. (Previously presented) The data storage device of claim 9, in which the steps for associating are characterized by moving the transducer to a beginning position of a move cycle while at a fly height that is greater than a nominal fly height.

11. (Previously presented) The data storage device of claim 10, in which the steps for associating are characterized by executing the move cycle with the transducer at a fly height that is less than the nominal fly height.

12. (Previously presented) The data storage device of claim 11, in which the steps for associating are characterized by the move cycle moving the transducer from an innermost portion to an outermost portion of the storage medium while at a fly height that is less than the nominal fly height.

13. (Previously presented) The data storage device of claim 12, in which the steps for associating are characterized by the transducer dwelling at each of a plurality of data storage tracks during the move cycle.

14. (Previously presented) The data storage device of claim 13 wherein the steps for associating are characterized by the transducer dwelling at a selected data storage track for less than one complete revolution of the data storage track during the move cycle.

15. (Previously presented) The data storage device of claim 13 wherein the steps for associating are characterized by the transducer dwelling at a selected data storage track for at least one complete revolution of the data storage track during the move cycle.

16. (Previously presented) The data storage device of claim 12 wherein the steps for associating are characterized by oscillating the transducer while at a fly height that is greater than the nominal fly height subsequent to completing the move cycle.

17. (Previously presented) The data storage device of claim 12 wherein the steps for associating are characterized by moving the transducer to the nominal fly height subsequent to completing the move cycle.

18. (Previously presented) An apparatus comprising circuitry configured to spatially separate a transducer from a storage medium by a first separation that is greater than a nominal data transfer separation, to thereafter move the transducer adjacent a selected portion of the storage medium at the first separation, to thereafter lower the transducer to a second separation that is less than the nominal data transfer separation, and to thereafter move the transducer across the storage medium at the second separation.

19. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 18 wherein the circuitry is configured such that the first separation is associated with a maximum operable data transfer separation.

20. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 19 wherein the circuitry is configured such that the second separation is associated with a minimum operable data transfer separation.

21. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 20 wherein the circuitry is configured such that the second separation is substantially thirty percent greater than the minimum operable data transfer separation.

22. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 20 wherein the circuitry is configured such that the transducer seeks from an outer track to an inner track of a rotating disc data storage medium at the first separation.

23. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the circuitry is configured such that the transducer seeks from the inner track to an outer track of the rotating disc data storage medium at the second separation.

24. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 23 wherein the circuitry is configured further to move the transducer from the second separation to the first separation subsequent to seeking to the outer track.

25. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 24 wherein the circuitry is configured further to oscillate the transducer at the first separation subsequent to seeking to the outer track.

26. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 25 wherein the circuitry is configured to oscillate the transducer by a series of short seeks.

27. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 23 wherein the circuitry is configured further to move the transducer from the second separation to the nominal separation subsequent to seeking to the outer track.